



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Ian Maxwell
Chief Executive
The Scottish Football Association Ltd.
Hampden Park
Glasgow
G42 9AY

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348-5224
Calls via RNID Typetalk:
18001 0131 348-5224

Via email only

Email: HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot

10 May 2023

Dear Mr Maxwell,

Men's Scottish Cup Final Kick-Off Time

I am writing on behalf of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee further to numerous representations Members of the Committee have received regarding the Scottish Football Association's regrettable decision to move the kick-off time of the Scottish Cup Final on Saturday 3 June from the traditional time of 3pm to 5.30pm.

As I am sure you will already be aware, this change of kick-off time has caused considerable disruption to those travelling fans who had already made travel arrangements prior to it being announced.

Alongside the safety implications of a later kick-off time, there is also a concern that the decision sets a dangerous precedent for other major sporting events in Scotland and will be no less disruptive to the viewing public.

On this basis, I would urge the SFA to reconsider its decision and to reinstate the traditional kick-off time of 3pm for this year's Scottish Cup Final.

In responding to this letter, I would also request that you give the Committee an understanding of the reasons behind the SFA's decision to change the kick-off time and, in reaching that decision, to outline any prior discussions you have had with Scottish Government Ministers, with transport service providers and with fan associations to ensure any associated disruption to individual travel plans would be kept to an acceptable minimum.

If it is no longer possible to reinstate the original kick-off time of 3pm, I would also ask you to outline what further steps you will be taking to ensure the safety of all those attending the match, including adequate transport provision to enable travelling fans to return home safely afterwards, most notably those who will be travelling considerable distances.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee